



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis and Administration

September 16, 2005

Mr. Chris Bartley
SC Department of Health and
Environmental Control
Greenville District Office of the Bureau of Land and Waste Management
Fax 803-896-4001


Re: Greenville County Economic Development Corporation – Abandonment and Discontinuance of Rail Service, STB Docket No. AB 490 (Sub-No. 1X)

Dear Mr. Bartley,

As you are aware from our phone conversation this morning, the Greenville County Economic Development Corporation (GCEDC) has filed a petition with the US Surface Transportation Board (STB) seeking abandonment of approximately 11.8 miles of rail line between milepost 0.0 in Greenville, SC, and milepost 11.8 in Travelers Rest, SC ("The Northern Segment"), and discontinuance of service over 3.29 miles of line, between milepost AJK 585.34 in East Greenville, SC and milepost 588.63 in Greenville (The Southern Segment). The Environmental and Historic Report was submitted to the Columbia office of the SC Dept of Health and Environmental Control, who noted concern about the possibility of contaminants being present along the rail right-of-way. As such, this office placed a condition that requires GCEDC to consult with the SC Dept of Health and Environmental Control prior to the commencement of any salvage activities, and to report the results to the STB.

Since that time, an Environmental Assessment has been made available to the public for comment. We have received a number of letters that expressed concern about possible contaminant transport of hazardous wastes from listed sites along the Northern Segment (Union Bleachery, Kerr Manufacturing, and a Quarry) to the rail right-of-way. Due to the uncertainty, I am requesting that you review the attached documents (Environmental and Historic Report and Western Carolina Railway Service), and determine if there might be any issues pertinent to the subject abandonment. The public comment period ends September 22, 2005, so I will need to incorporate any responses into the final document at that time. I can be reached at 202-565-1552, woodd@stb.dot.gov, should you have any questions. My fax number is 202-565-9000. Thanks so much for your quick review of this project.

Sincerely,


Diana F. Wood